**Glossary of Terms From the Novel**

*Beowulf*: Medieval epic poem written in Old English. For further information, see the [Beowulf Study Guide](http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Beowulf.html#Top) on this site.   
Biltmore: World-famous luxury hotel between 43rd and 44th Streets in New York. In 1942, the Biltmore hosted a meeting of Jewish leaders in which David Ben-Gurion announced a resolution supporting the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. Ben-Gurion (1886-1973) later became the first prime minister and first defense minister of Israel after it was established in 1948. The Biltmore Hotel was converted into the Bank of America Plaza Building, beginning in 1981.   
Bourgeois: As a noun, member of the middle class; as an adjective, having the qualities or values of a member of the middle class. The word is often used to label a person, place, or thing as ordinary, commonplace, or inferior. Example from the novel: *He was always saying snotty things about them, my suitcases, for instance. He kept saying they were too new and bourgeois*.   
Chiffonier (or Chiffonnier): Chest of drawers or bureau, usually with a mirror.   
Colored: Term used in the 1950's to describe an *Afro-American* or *black*. Example from the novel: *Ernie's a big fat colored guy that plays the piano.* The terms *Afro-American* and *black* did not gain currency in America until the late 1960's.   
*David Copperfield*: Great coming-of-age novel written by Charles Dickens (1812-1870). Dickens based the book in part on the difficult early years of his own life. For further information, see the [David Copperfield Study Guide](http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides2/Copperfield.html#Top) on this site.   
Dope Fiend: Drug addict.   
El Morocco: World-famous nightclub on East 54th Street, between Second and Third Avenues. Its main room was decorated in a zebra-stripe pattern.   
Galoshes: Rubber overshoes or boots with a warm lining.   
Gladstone Bag: Hinged traveling bag or suitcase that opens flat to reveal two compartments.   
Grippe: Widely used term for flu, or influenza. Some Americans of the 1950's would call in sick by saying, "I have the grippe" rather than "I have the flu."   
*Hamlet*: Shakespeare play that Holden Caulfield, his brother D.B., and his sister Phoebe saw in 1948. For complete information on the play, see the [Hamlet Study Guide](http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/xHamlet.html#Hamlet) on this site.   
Hound's-Tooth Jacket: Jacket printed or woven with a pattern of irregular, jagged checks.   
I Know My Love: This Broadway play, by S.N. Behrman (1893-1973), opened on November 2, 1949, and closed on June 3, 1950. It is the play that Holden Caulfield attends with Sally Hayes. It starred the popular husband-wife acting team of Alfred Lunt and Lynne Fontanne.   
Jitterbug: In the 1940's and 1950's, a lively dance in which a partner did twirls, lifts, or splits while holding one or both of the other partner's hands.   
Lardner, Ring: Writer of short stories distinguished in part for their realistic presentation of ordinary American speech and conversation.   
LaSalle: Luxury car manufactured by Cadillac between 1927 and 1940.   
Muckle-Mouthed: Big-mouthed, verbose, long-winded; tending to jabber on. Example from the novel: *She was sort of muckle-mouthed. I mean when she was talking and she got excited about something, her mouth sort of went in about fifty directions, her lips and all.*   
*Of Human Bondage*: Novel by W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965). It centers on an orphan with a clubfoot who attends several schools, tries several careers, and finally becomes a country doctor after marrying the wife of a friend.   
*Out of Africa*: Nonfiction book by Isak Dinesen (1885-1963), penname of Danish writer Karen Christence Blixen-Finecke.   
Pedagogical: Having the qualities of a pedagogue, a teacher who shows too much concern for minor details; picky, fussy.   
Phony: Fake, artificial; a person who pretends to be more important, talented, or accomplished than he is   
*The Return of the Native*: Novel by Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) depicting a failing marriage. The characters in this novel and other Hardy novels live in a world Darwinian determinism in which persons are dominated by forces beyond their control.   
Record: As you are no doubt well aware, no music CD's existed in the 1950's. All music recordings were on records, disks that spun on a turntable while a needle on an armlike apparatus was positioned in a circling groove on the disk to produce sound. There were several types of records–some spinning fast on the turntable, some spinning more slowly. Records spinning more slowly were programmed with more music (or speeches, sound effects, etc.). Records spinning at 33 revolutions per minute (rpm) were called LP's–that is long-playing records. Other records would spin at 45 rpm and 78 rpm. Records that would spin at lower speeds were made of vinyl and would not shatter when dropped. Records spinning at 78 rpm were brittle and would shatter when dropped. It is likely that Holden Caulfield's "Shirley Beans" record was a 78 rpm. When he dropped it, it shattered into many pieces.   
*Romeo and Juliet*: Shakespeare play that Holden Caulfied discusses with nuns. For complete information on this play, see the [Romeo and Juliet Study Guide](http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/xRomeoJul.html#Romeo) on this site.   
Snow Someone: Deceive, mislead, or persuade a person through flattery, glib talk, or specious argumentation. Holden Caulfield says of Ward Stradlater: "What he'd do was, he'd start snowing his date in this very quiet, sincere voice–like as if he wasn't only a very handsome guy but a nice, sincere guy, too.   
Stork Club: World-famous nightclub at 3 East 53rd Street. It opened in 1929 and closed in 1965.   
Swell: 1950's equivalent of *cool, awesome*, or *great*. Examples from the novel: *swell guy, swell song, swell girls, swell to see you*.   
Tattersall: Fabric pattern of dark squares on a light background. Example from the novel: *On my right there was this very Joe Yale-looking guy, in a gray flannel suit and one of those flitty-looking Tattersall vests.*   
The 39 Steps: 1935 film of mystery and intrigue directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Robert Donat. It is Phoebe Caulfied's favorite movie.   
Vye, Eustacia: Character in *The Return of the Native*. ([See above](http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides3/Catcher.html#Return).)   
Ziegfeld Follies: Stage show featuring music, beautiful chorus girls, comedians, and elaborate sets. Florenz Ziefeld debuted his follies in New York in 1907